



# Infomat

*A Weekly Review*

Friday, March 1, 2002

## OVERVIEW

### ◆ Both exports and imports decline

Exports resumed their decline in December, and imports plunged even further to their lowest level in two and a half years. The resulting trade surplus rose to \$4.5 billion, the highest level in six months.

### ◆ Strong holiday season for most retailers

Consumers spent more in all retail sectors in December, pushing sales to \$25.0 billion. Despite signs of an economic slowdown in 2001, retail sales advanced 2.7% from 2000.

### ◆ Wholesalers hurt by weakened American economy

Wholesale sales rose 2.3% in 2001, compared with 6.4% in 2000. Wholesalers were hurt by the weakening of the American economy, made worse by the events of September 11.

### ◆ Canadian investors look to foreign markets in 2001

In 2001, Canadian investment in foreign equities increased by \$34.6 billion, second only to the record gain of \$58.7 billion in 2000.

### ◆ Sharp drop in travel deficit

Canada's travel deficit with the rest of the world plummeted to the lowest level since 1986, the year of the world's fair in Vancouver.

### ◆ Wealth inequality on the rise

Median net worth for all families rose about 10% from 1984 to 1999, but this increase was not shared equally by all types of families.

## Both exports and imports decline

**E**xports resumed their decline in December, dropping for the eighth time in 10 months. Canadian companies exported \$32.0 billion in merchandise, down 1.2% from November.

Imports, however, declined an even steeper 1.8% to \$27.5 billion, their lowest level since July 1999. The resulting trade surplus rose \$126.4 million to \$4.5 billion in December, the highest level in six months.

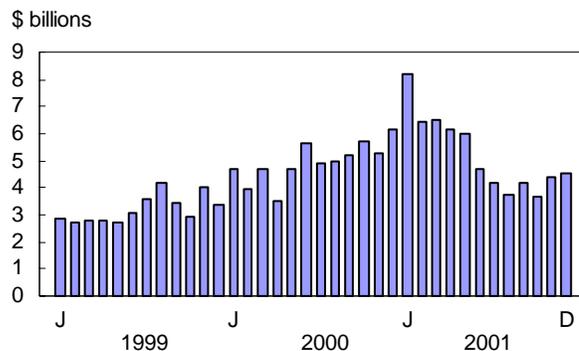
In 2001, exports declined 2.2% to \$413.1 billion, the first annual decline since 1991. This was mainly the result of a year-long slide in the machinery and equipment sector and the energy sector. But with imports falling even faster (-3.5% to \$350.5 billion), the merchandise trade surplus rose 5.6% to \$62.6 billion, its highest annual level ever.

Merchandise exports to the United States fell slightly to \$26.8 billion in December, while imports from Canada's southern neighbour dropped 1.6% to \$20.0 billion. As a result, the trade surplus with the United States jumped 4.4% to nearly \$6.8 billion.

The value of merchandise exports in the three largest exporting sectors — machinery and equipment, automotive products, and industrial goods and materials — fell by a combined total of almost \$475 million in December.

Exports of machinery and equipment fell 2.5% to \$7.9 billion. Exports of aircraft, engines and parts declined 11.8% to \$2.0 billion, down from a record high in November.

**Trade balance**



(continued on page 2)



### ... Both exports and imports decline

Despite buyer incentive plans in both the United States and Canada, which targeted dealer inventories and drove car sales to record highs, exports of automotive products fell 1.6% to \$7.7 billion, as manufacturing plants had extended Christmas shutdowns.

Industrial goods and materials exports fell 2.6% to \$5.4 billion, returning to more normal levels following an unusually high result in November.

The forestry products sector experienced a 0.2% decline in exports to just under \$3.0 billion. Lumber and sawmill product exports rose 3.2% to \$1.4 billion, ending a string of declines dating back to July. The 19.3% countervailing duties imposed in August expired in mid-December, giving Canadian lumber producers a temporary reprieve until a negotiated settlement or

final rulings from the U.S. Trade Tribunal appear — these are expected in May. In December, lumber exports advanced 7.2% to \$924.1 million, following four straight months of decline.

Imports fell in all major categories, except for the energy and machinery and equipment sectors, which gained slightly. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment increased 5.2% in December to \$1.3 billion. Motor vehicle parts imports fell 2.7% to \$3.3 billion; this was the leading factor in December's 1.3% drop in imports of automotive products, which totalled \$6.0 billion.

*The December 2001 issue of Canadian international merchandise trade (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) is now available. For general information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583). For analytical information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)*

## Strong holiday season for most retailers

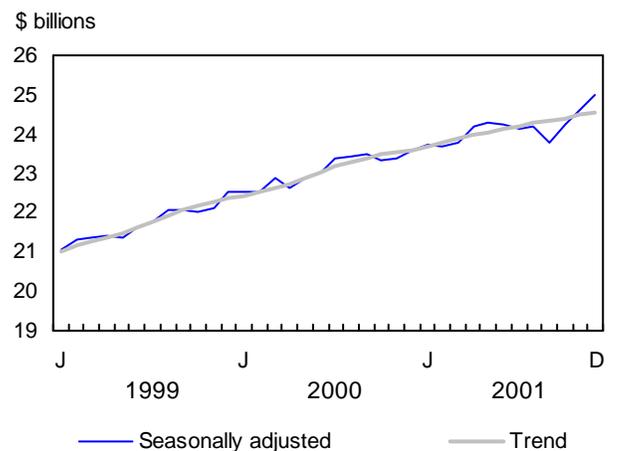
Consumers spent more in all retail sectors in December. Retailers posted their third consecutive monthly gain, pushing sales to \$25.0 billion, up 1.6% from November. Despite signs of an economic slowdown in 2001, retail sales advanced 2.7% from 2000.

Retailers in sectors such as automotive (+2.0%), general merchandise (+1.8%), clothing (+1.6%) and food (+1.1%) reported strong sales gains. The furniture sector led in December, jumping 3.9%.

Despite slow growth in the first half of 2001, sales in furniture stores advanced 7.9% from 2000. Although this was weaker than the gains in the previous four years, when sales increases ranged from 8.0% to 11.0%, furniture stores led all other retailers in 2001.

As in 2000, credit incentives and a strong housing market stimulated sales in furniture stores in 2001. Home electronic novelties, such as DVD players, flat-screen televisions and video

### Retail sales



games may have contributed to better holiday sales in the fourth quarter. Also, the events of September 11 may have magnified a possible 'cocooning' effect, stimulating home entertainment purchases.

In 2001, drug stores gained 7.2%; higher prices for medicinal and pharmaceutical products contributed to the higher sales in drug stores.

Sales in food stores advanced 4.4% in 2001, the largest increase in four years. Higher prices of fresh produce contributed significantly to the higher sales.

Aggressive financing programs that were introduced in November strongly stimulated sales of new motor vehicles, which had remained essentially flat since April 2001. Fourth quarter sales increased 7.3% from the third, the largest quarterly sales gain in four years. While the total number of new motor vehicles sold in 2001 was up 0.7% from 2000, cumulative sales from January to October 2001 were in fact 1.3% lower than those in the same period of 2000.

Advancing at twice the national rate, both Alberta and the Northwest Territories posted the strongest sales growth (+9.1%)

(continued on page 3)

### Retail sales by province and territory

	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>277,033</b>	<b>289,460</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,522	4,905	8.5
Prince Edward Island	1,230	1,277	3.8
Nova Scotia	8,485	8,743	3.0
New Brunswick	6,905	7,070	2.4
Quebec	63,481	66,201	4.3
Ontario	106,426	109,520	2.9
Manitoba	9,396	9,938	5.8
Saskatchewan	8,132	8,368	2.9
Alberta	31,712	34,588	9.1
British Columbia	35,821	37,865	5.7
Yukon	343	363	5.9
Northwest Territories	395	431	9.1
Nunavut	185	193	4.8

### ... Strong holiday season for most retailers

of all provinces and territories in 2001. Retail sales in Newfoundland and Labrador rose 8.5% in 2001.

Manitoba (+5.8%) and British Columbia (+5.7%) also posted retail sales increases above the national average in 2001, whereas Quebec retailers posted a 4.3% sales increase in 2001, just below the national average.

After advancing at a rate of about 7.0% in the previous four years, retail sales in Ontario rose 2.9% in 2001. Job losses in the

manufacturing and high technology industries contributed to the relatively weak performance by Ontario's retailers.

*The December 2001 issue of **Retail trade** (Internet: 63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) is now available. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-5668; michael.scrim@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

## Wholesalers hurt by weakened American economy

**W**holesale sales rose 2.3% in 2001, compared with 6.4% in 2000. Wholesalers were hurt by the weakening of the American economy, made worse by the events of September 11, along with the softwood lumber trade dispute between Canada and the United States.

As these events unfolded, wholesalers saw their sales weaken. After a growth of 1.5% in the second quarter and 0.2% in the third, wholesale sales dropped 0.8% in the fourth.

The computers and electronics sector was worst hit in 2001, falling 7.1%. This drop may be attributed not only to the current problems that afflict the sector, but also to a general retreat in sales following the massive pre-Y2K build-up in 1999. As well, computer prices fell during this period.

After Y2K passed, sales started to generally rise again throughout 2000, but not at the pace observed leading up to that event. In 2001, the wholesaling of computers and electronics was in a relative free fall, the result of softening demand in the personal computer market.

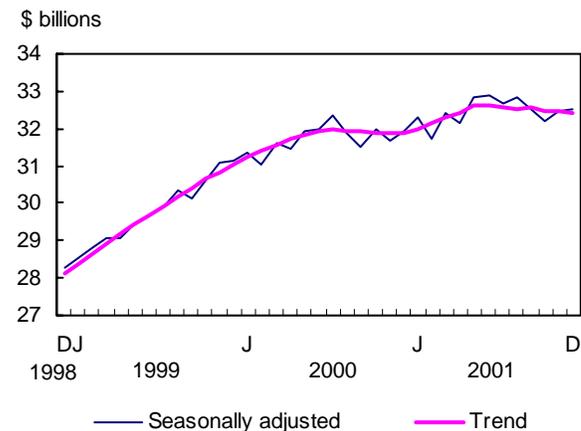
Wholesale sales of metals and hardware (-3.5%), and automotive products (-1.2%) also fell.

### Annual variation in wholesale sales, by trade group

Unadjusted

	1999 to 2000	2000 to 2001
	% change	
<b>All trade groups</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Food products	5.9	8.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	9.3	12.6
Apparel and dry goods	-1.4	7.8
Household goods	4.8	2.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6.2	-1.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	4.4	-3.5
Lumber and building materials	0.6	1.2
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	-2.0	8.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	12.3	2.1
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	-0.5	-7.1
Other products	11.8	4.0

### Wholesale sales



In contrast, sales of beverages, drugs and tobacco increased 12.6% from 2000, marking the third straight year of rising sales. Sales of food products grew 8.0% in 2001, compared with 5.9% in 2000. Wholesalers of both apparel and farm equipment shook off negative growth in 2000 to rise 7.8% and 8.4%, respectively.

As for the provinces, sales in Ontario rose a modest 0.7%. Declines were noted in Newfoundland and Labrador, which suffered a 3.4% drop attributed to the slowdown in oil and gas exploration and development, and in British Columbia, where the softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the U.S. caused a decline of 1.8%. The other provinces reported strong wholesale sales.

In December 2001, wholesale sales rose 0.3% from November to \$32.5 billion, the second consecutive monthly increase. Strong wholesale sales were reported in seven of the 11 wholesale sectors. Despite the rise, wholesale trade has been hurt by recent economic weakness around the world, particularly in the United States. Tied strongly to export markets, Canadian wholesalers have been further affected by border and trade concerns.

Holding back December's advance were lower sales in metals and hardware (-2.7%), automotive products (-2.6%), and lumber and building materials (-1.3%). In contrast, important contributors to the overall advance in December were beverage, drugs and tobacco (+3.1%), industrial machinery (+1.7%), food products (+1.4%), and computers and electronics (+0.9%).

(continued on page 4)

### ... Wholesalers hurt by weakened American economy

Inventory levels fell for the sixth time in seven months in December, down 0.9% to \$42.9 billion. Eight of the 11 wholesale sectors reported lower inventory levels. Inventories had been declining since the start of 2001.

The December 2001 issue of *Wholesale trade* (Internet: 63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) is now available. For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Alexander Hays (613-951-3552; [haysale@statcan.ca](mailto:haysale@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

## Canadian investors look to foreign markets in 2001

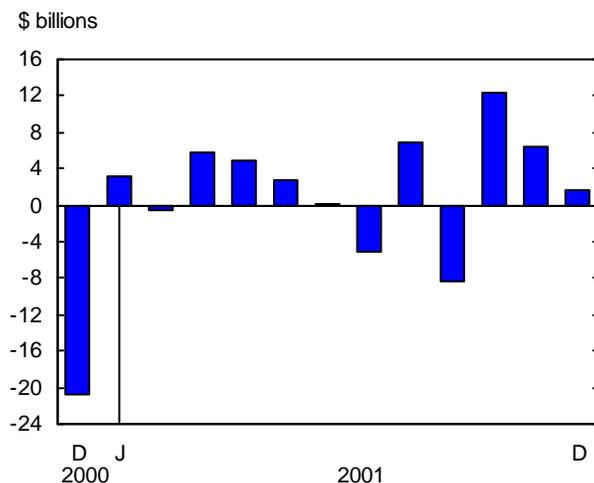
In 2001, Canadian holdings of foreign equities increased \$34.6 billion, second only to the record \$58.7 billion gain in 2000. Canadian investment in foreign bonds was negligible, after averaging \$5 billion annually from 1997 to 2000.

In December alone, Canadians increased their holdings of foreign securities (mostly stocks) by \$6.0 billion, their largest investment in seven months. Canadians invested \$1.5 billion in foreign bonds, mainly US treasuries, after selling off \$3.8 billion in October and November.

In 2001, foreign investors divested \$7.3 billion, divided between federal treasury bills, corporate paper and paper of other levels of government.

Foreign investors acquired \$33.6 billion in Canadian bonds in 2001. Over 70 % of bond investments were in the form of net new issues (new issues less retirements). The majority of this borrowing came from corporations. With the strengthening of their fiscal positions in recent years, Canadian governments have reduced their demand for foreign financing. Foreign investment for the year originated mostly in the United States.

### Foreign investment in Canadian securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

### Related market information

December's short-term interest rate differential was 25 basis points favouring Canada, virtually unchanged from November. Rates in Canada and the United States fell more than three and one-half percentage points to below 2.0% at year-end, a level not seen in more than four decades. Long-term rates rose marginally more in the US than in Canada in December, reducing the differential by 6 basis points to 17 basis points, the lowest level favouring investment in Canada since May 2001.

Canadian stock prices (TSE 300 Composite Index) posted another gain in December, closing 3.5% higher than in November, but down 13.9% over all of 2001. Similarly, American stock prices (Standard & Poors Index) advanced 0.8% in December but declined 13.0% in 2001.

The Canadian dollar closed the year at a record low 62.78 US cents. After a decline of nearly one US cent in December, the close was almost four cents US lower than at the end of 2000.

Foreign investment in Canadian stocks rose \$1.4 billion in December, solely because of the issue of new treasury shares by a Canadian company that acquired a foreign company. Partly offsetting this transaction were acquisitions of Canadian companies whose shares, including those held by foreign portfolio investors, were purchased for cash by foreign direct investors.

For the second consecutive month, foreign investors sold off small amounts of existing shares in the secondary market. Investment in Canadian stocks by foreign investors for all of 2001 was \$3.9 billion, one-tenth of that invested in 2000.

After reducing their holdings of Canadian money market paper by nearly \$10 billion over the first 11 months of 2001, foreign investors bought \$2.3 billion worth in December, the largest monthly investment since March 2000. This investment was split between federal treasuries and the paper of other levels of government and corporations, purchased mostly by American and European investors.

The December 2001 issue of *Canada's international transactions in securities* (Internet: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) will be available soon. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.

## Sharp drop in travel deficit

Canada's travel deficit with the rest of the world plummeted from a revised \$2.1 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$1.3 billion in 2001, due in part to the low deficit recorded in the fourth quarter.

This was the lowest annual travel deficit since 1986, the year of the world's fair in Vancouver. In 2001, foreign travellers spent a record \$16.3 billion in Canada, up 2.8% from 2000.

Canada's international travel deficit — the difference between what Canadians spend abroad and what foreigners spend in Canada — fell in the fourth quarter to its lowest since the third quarter of 1986. The deficit declined from a revised \$368 million in the third quarter to an estimated \$85 million in the fourth quarter.

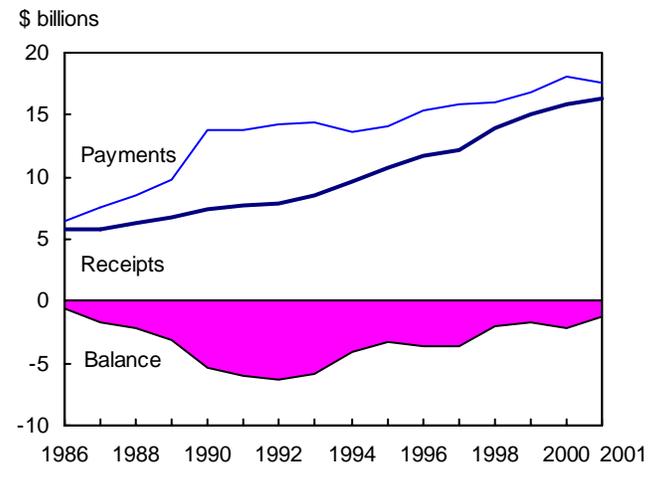
This result was mostly due to a drop in spending by Canadian travellers outside the country. From October to December, Canadian residents spent slightly less than \$4.0 billion, down 9.0% from the third quarter and the lowest since the third quarter of 1998. Foreign residents injected \$3.9 billion into the Canadian economy, 2.8% less than in the third quarter; this was the third consecutive quarterly decrease.

The depreciation of the Canadian dollar against many currencies and the events of September 11 were two factors that contributed to the declines in travel spending during the fourth quarter. They also affected the total number of trips taken from and to Canada.

Canada's travel balance with the United States showed an estimated surplus of \$121 million in the fourth quarter, due to a significant drop in both the number of trips made and the amount of travel spending by Canadian residents.

Canadians took 8.1 million same-day and overnight trips south of the border, down 15.1% from the third quarter. They spent an estimated \$2.4 billion in the United States from October to December, down 9.9% from the third quarter. The weakening of the Canadian dollar against the American may have contributed to these declines. During the fourth quarter, the dollar averaged a depreciation of 2.2% against its American counterpart.

## Canada's annual travel deficit lowest since 1986



Americans spent nearly \$2.5 billion on this side of the border, down a slight 0.5% from the third quarter. Their number of trips fell 8.5% to 9.6 million.

The travel deficit with overseas countries also fell. Canadian residents took 1.1 million trips to overseas destinations in the fourth quarter, down 9.6% from the third, and their spending on those trips fell 7.8% to just over \$1.6 billion.

Overseas travellers spent slightly more than \$1.4 billion in Canada, 6.6% less than they did in the third quarter. They made 4.6% fewer trips in the fourth quarter, down to just under 1.0 million. Consequently, the travel deficit with countries other than the United States declined from a revised \$243 million in the third quarter to \$206 million in the fourth. During the period, the Canadian dollar depreciated against the major European currencies.

*For more information, contact Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720) or Client services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

## Wealth inequality on the rise

Median net worth for all families rose about 10% from 1984 to 1999, but this increase was not shared equally by all types of families. For instance, the median net worth of young couples with children fell 30%, according to a new study based on the 1984 Assets and Debts Survey and the 1999 Survey of Financial Security (SFS).

The sharp decline in net worth of young families with children during this 15-year period suggests that some may have relatively few financial assets to absorb the shock of economic stresses, such as job loss.

Net worth is the amount an individual or family would clear after selling all assets (such as residences, stocks and retirement savings plans), and paying off all debts (such as mortgages, car loans and student loans). The terms "net worth" and "wealth" are interchangeable.

In 1999, the SFS showed that the median net worth of Canadian families was about \$64,600. One-half of all families had net worth more than this figure, and half had less.

In 1984, young families with children — that is, those in which the major income recipient was aged between 25 and 34 — had a median net worth of \$44,000. In 1999, this net worth had declined 30% to \$30,800. The proportion of this group with no net worth — that is, their total assets were less than or equal to their total debts — rose from 10% in 1984 to 16% in 1999.

Some factors may have contributed to the decline in median wealth of these young families, although their relative importance is unknown. For example, young people now stay in school longer before entering the labour market full-time than did their counterparts in the mid-1980s. This reduces the number of years during which they are able to earn substantial income and accumulate savings.

*(continued on page 6)*

### ... Wealth inequality on the rise

Wealth inequality increased among various types of families between 1984 and 1999. While young families' median wealth fell markedly, other groups of families enjoyed substantial increases in wealth — for example, families in which the major income recipient had a university degree, or was aged 65 and over.

There are many possible reasons for the widening gap between rich families and their poorer counterparts. First, the booming stock market of the 1990s likely contributed to the rapid increase of financial assets, which are held predominantly by families at the top of the wealth distribution.

Secondly, easier access to credit and changes in preferences — consumers being less reluctant to incur debt — may have induced some less-wealthy families to accumulate more debt to finance consumption, thereby decreasing their net worth.

Larger contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans by families in the middle of the wealth distribution may also have widened the gap between them and poorer families.

Finally, differences between less-wealthy and wealthy families in the growth of inheritances and transfers from parents to their adult children (for example, parental financing of education or of the down payment on a house) may also have played a role.

*The research paper entitled **The evolution of wealth inequality in Canada, 1984-1999** (Internet: 11F0019MIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Social conditions. For more information, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.*



## New from Statistics Canada

### Perspectives on labour and income February 2002

The February 2002 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income* features two articles. "Wealth inequality" is an abridged version of the similarly-titled research paper and is available as a free PDF file. "Farmers leaving the field" uses the Labour Force Survey to examine some factors that may explain recent declines in employment in agriculture.

*The February 2002 online edition of Perspectives on labour and income (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*



### Canadian economic observer February 2002

The February 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer* analyzes current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in January 2002, and presents a feature article on the labour market in 2001. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

*The February 2002 issue of Canadian economic observer (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For analytical information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.*

### Labour force historical review

The *Labour force historical review* is an easy-to-use tool for discovering labour market patterns or trends. This annual product is a comprehensive database of Labour Force Survey estimates, containing thousands of cross-classified data series spanning more than two decades (1976-2001).

The CD-ROM contains monthly and annual data tables on a wide range of subjects, including labour force status by demographics, education and family characteristics, trends in the labour markets of metropolitan cities, employment and unemployment levels by economic regions, data by industry and occupation, and wages and union membership.

*The 2001 Labour force historical review (CD-ROM: 71F0004XCB, \$195) is now available. To order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre, or send an email to order@statcan.ca. For more information, call 613-951-4090 or toll-free 1-866-873-8788 (email: labour@statcan.ca).*

### Residential Telephone Service Survey

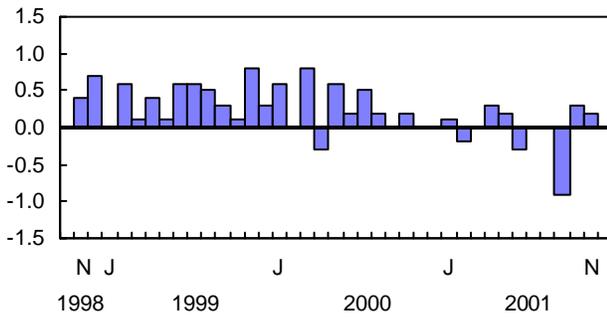
The *Residential Telephone Service Survey* is a microdata file that contains telephone service penetration rates in Canada's 10 provinces.

*The November 2001 Telephone Service Survey (CD-ROM: 56M0001XCB, \$500) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.*

## Current Trends

### Gross domestic product

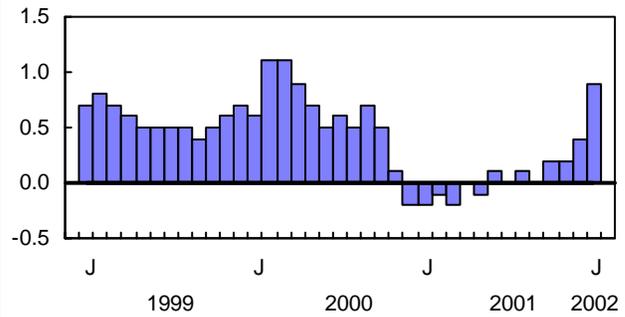
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.2% in November, after rising 0.3% in October.

### Composite index

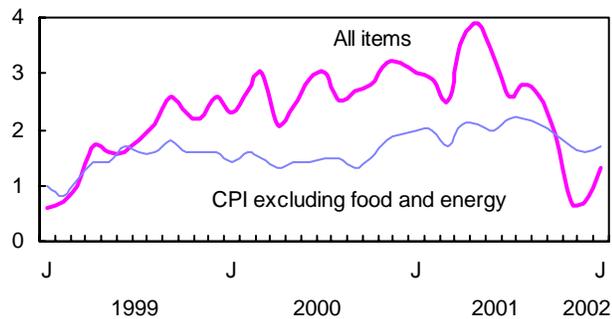
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.9% in January, due mainly to strength in household spending.

### Consumer price index

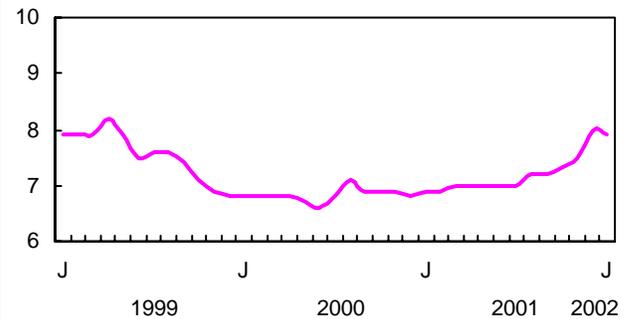
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.3% higher in January than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.7%.

### Unemployment rate

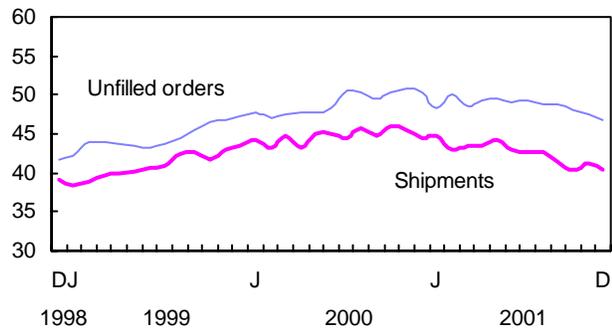
%



In January, the unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 7.9%.

### Manufacturing

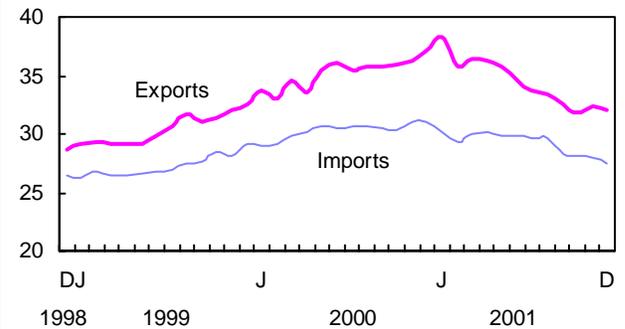
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.8% in December to \$40.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 1.5% to \$46.8 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In December, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.2% to \$32.0 billion. Imports declined 1.8% to \$27.5 billion.

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	December*	943.1	0.2%	0.7%
Composite Index (1992=100)	January	168.9	0.9%	1.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q4 2001*	33.8	-5.6%	-29.9%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q3 2001	79.4	-2.5†	-7.0†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	December*	25.0	1.6%	5.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	December	145.7	0.9%	11.9%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	December	32.5	0.3%	1.8%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	January	15.2	0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	January	7.9	-0.1†	1.0†
Participation rate (%)	January	66.4	0.1†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	December*	671.43	0.10%	1.92%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	January	125	-0.8%	-27.3%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	December	557.2	0.0%	16.9%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	December	32.0	-1.2%	-13.8%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	December	27.5	-1.8%	-11.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	December	4.5	0.1	-1.6
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	December	40.4	-1.8%	-9.5%
New orders (\$ billions)	December	39.7	-2.5%	-9.9%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	December	46.8	-1.5%	-6.9%
Inventory/shipments ratio	December	1.56	0.02	0.11
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	January	116.2	0.3%	1.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	January*	106.2	0.9%	-1.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	January*	103.2	2.6%	-13.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	December	107.3	0.2%	2.8%

*Note:* All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

\* new this week

† percentage point

<sup>1</sup> 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Farm cash receipts	Jan.-Dec. 2001	21-001-XIB	15/48
The dairy review	Q4 2001	23-001-XIB	27/89
The dairy review	Q4 2001	23-001-XPB	36/119
<b>ANALYTICAL STUDIES</b>			
The evolution of wealth inequality in Canada	1984-1999	11F0019MIE01187	free
<b>CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</b>			
Canadian economic observer	February 2002	11-010-XPB	23/227
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b>			
Retail trade	December 2001	63-005-XIB	16/155
Wholesale trade	December 2001	63-008-XIB	14/140
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Canadian international merchandise trade	December 2001	65-001-XIB	14/141
Canadian international merchandise trade	December 2001	65-001-XPB	19/188
<b>LABOUR STATISTICS</b>			
Labour force historical review	2001	71F0004XCB	195
<b>LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS</b>			
Perspectives on labour and income	February 2002	75-001-XIE	5/48
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>			
Construction type plywood	December 2001	35-001-XIB	5/47
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	January 2002	44-004-XIB	5/47
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	December 2001	31-001-XIB	15/147
Primary iron and steel	December 2001	41-001-XIB	5/47
Refined petroleum products	September 2001	45-004-XIB	16/155
Refined petroleum products	September 2001	45-004-XPB	21/206
Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas	September 2001	26-006-XPB	19/186
<b>SPECIAL SURVEYS</b>			
Residential Telephone Service Survey	November 2001	56M0001XCB	500

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<b>Calendar of key releases: March 2002</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
				<b>1</b> A comparison of Canada-U.S. economic growth in the information age, 1981-2000
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Building permits, January 2002	<b>7</b> Help-wanted Index, February 2002	<b>8</b> Labour Force Survey, February 2002
<b>11</b> Industrial capacity utilization rates, Q4 2001 New Housing Price Index, January 2002	<b>12</b> 2001 Census: Population and dwelling counts	<b>13</b> Changes in unmet health care needs, 1998-99/2000-01	<b>14</b> Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, Q4 2001 New motor vehicle sales, January 2002	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b> Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, January 2002	<b>19</b> Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2002 Travel between Canada and other countries, January 2002	<b>20</b> Composite Index, February 2002 Wholesale trade, January 2002	<b>21</b> Consumer Price Index, February 2002 Retail trade, January 2002	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b> Canada's international transactions in securities, January 2002 Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology, 2001	<b>26</b> 2001 Census of population*	<b>27</b> National Balance Sheet, 2001 Canada's international investment position, 2001 Employment Insurance, January 2002	<b>28</b> Gross domestic product by industry, January 2002 Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes, February 2002 Employment, earnings and hours, January 2002	<b>29</b>

**Note:** Except for the releases marked with an asterisk, all the release dates in this calendar are fixed. A more detailed calendar of fixed release dates for the entire year is available from Statistics Canada's website at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

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